	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/662,164	CHENG ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Maikhanh Nguyen	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the Amendment filed 11/09/2007 & the telephonic interview 12/11/2007.*

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1, 2, 5-8, 22, 23, 26-29, 45, and 47 (now renumbered as 1-14).*

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

     (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

     (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

     Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

I.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37

CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no

later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than

the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

II.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Mr. Richard A. Hinson (Reg. No. 47, 652) on December 11, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for storing electronic documents comprising the steps of:

associating at least one electronic document stored in a network storage system with an associative object represented by a digital seal, wherein the digital seal uniquely corresponds to an image of a seal, stamp, or tape that is visually displayable within a user interface;

displaying said image within said user interface;

presenting at least one multimedia object within said user interface, wherein said multimedia object is a user selectable representation for said associative object;

moving the displayed image within the user interface as said digital seal is associated with said at least one electronic document so as to visually simulate said image being affixed to said at least one electronic document;

generating an audio signal when the displayed image is moved adjacent to or over another image within the user interface representative of the at least one electronic document so as to audibly simulate said image being affixed to said at least one electronic document;

storing one or more metadata attributes for said associative object, said metadata attributes specifying one or more ~~one~~ characteristics related to said associative object, wherein at least one of said characteristics comprises one or more authorization codes required before allowing said at least one electronic document to be retrieved, and wherein at least one of said characteristics comprises biometric <u>fingerprint</u> data associated with at least one user; and

responsive to said document being associated with said associative object, modifying a storage location in said network storage system of said at least one electronic document based on at least one of said stored metadata attributes, wherein said modified storage location is at least one among a new physical storage location and a new logical storage location in said network storage system.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said associative object is said digital seal.

3. – 4. (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 , wherein at least one of said authorization codes is valid for a first user and invalid for a second user.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
        associating a second digital seal with one of said at least one electronic document using a second associative object.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said digital seal includes a first authorization code, and wherein said second digital seal includes a second authorization code, said method further comprising the step of:
        requiring said first authorization code and said second authorization code before said one of at least one electronic document can be retrieved.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
        establishing a first authorization code for said digital seal, wherein said first authorization code is associated with a first image;
        encoding said at least one associated electronic documents with a second authorization code associated with a second image; and,
        decoding said at least one associated electronic documents using at least in part said first image.

9. – 21. (Cancelled)

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored

thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections

executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

associating at least one electronic document stored in a network storage system

with an associative object represented by a digital seal, wherein the digital seal uniquely

corresponds to an image of a seal, stamp, or tape that is visually displayable within a user

interface;

displaying said image within said user interface;

presenting at least one multimedia object within said user interface, wherein said

multimedia object is a user selectable representation for said associative object

moving the displayed image within the user interface as said digital seal is

associated with said at least one electronic document so as to visually simulate said image

being affixed to said at least one electronic document;

generating an audio signal when the displayed image is moved adjacent to or over

another image within the user interface representative of the at least one electronic

document so as to audibly simulate said image being affixed to said at least one

electronic document;

storing one or more metadata attributes for said associative object, said metadata

attributes specifying one or more one characteristics related to said associative object,

wherein at least one of said characteristics comprises one or more authorization codes

required before allowing said at least one electronic document to be retrieved, and

wherein at least one of said characteristics comprises biometric <u>fingerprint</u> data

associated with at least one user; and

responsive to said document being associated with said associative object,

modifying a storage location in said network storage system of said at least one electronic

document based on at least one of said stored metadata attributes, wherein said modified

storage location is at least one among a new physical storage location and a new logical

storage location in said network storage system.

23.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage <u>medium</u> of claim 22,
wherein said associative object is said digital seal.

24. – 25. (Cancelled)

26.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage <u>medium</u> of claim [[25]] 22,
wherein at least one of said authorization codes is valid for a first user and invalid for a
second user.

27.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage <u>medium</u> of claim 22, further
comprising the step of: .

associating a second digital seal with one of said at least one electronic document

using a second associative object.

28.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage <u>medium</u> of claim 27,
wherein said digital seal includes a first authorization code, and wherein said second

digital seal includes a second authorization code, said machine readable storage further comprising the step of:

requiring said first authorization code and said second authorization code before said one of at least one electronic document can be retrieved.

29.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a first authorization code for said digital seal, wherein said first authorization code is associated with a first image;

encoding said at least one associated electronic documents with a second authorization code associated with a second image; and,

decoding said at least one associated electronic documents using at least in part said first image.

30. – 44. (Cancelled)

45.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [4] 5, wherein at least one appearance attribute of said digital seal is altered in response to one of said required authorization codes being received and validated.

46.   (Cancelled)

47.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim [25]26, wherein at least one appearance attribute of said digital seal is altered in response to one of said required authorization codes being received and validated.

Contact information

III.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-

4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30

pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for

unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about

the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the

Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-

free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access

to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-

272-1000.

MN

WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER